

THAI CABINET 13 MAY SETS UP COMMITTEE ON U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL

BK141015 BANGKOK DOMESTIC SERVICE IN THAI 1300 GMT 13 MAY 75 BK

(EXCERPTS) AT 1330 TODAY MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE PRICHA PHATTANATHABUT, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFF CHARUN KUWANON, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR GENERAL MAJOR GENERAL PRAKOP CHARUMANI TOLD REPORTERS AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE THAT THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING WAS HELD TODAY UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER MR. KHUKRIT PRAMOT. THE CABINET CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT ISSUES:

THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE BASES THAT THE UNITED STATES IS USING IN THAILAND: SINCE THE GOVERNMENT HAS A POLICY TO WITHDRAW ALL U.S. FORCES FROM THAILAND WITHIN 12 MONTHS AND IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS PROPOSED THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEMS OF THE BASES IN THAILAND BEING ASKED BY THE UNITED STATES.

THE COMMITTEE IS COMPRISED OF:

THE FOREIGN MINISTER AS CHAIRMAN.

THE ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN.

THE UNDERSECRETARIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERIOR AND INDUSTRY MINISTRIES; THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL; THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, THE NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AS COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND SECRETARIES.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD AS COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.

THE DUTY OF THE COMMITTEE IS:

1. TO FIX DEFINITE SCHEDULES OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND TO OVERSEE THE SMOOTH TRANSFER OF BASE FACILITIES IN THE BEST OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST.
2. TO GIVE SUGGESTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BARGAINING WITH THE UNITED STATES IN HANDING OVER THE EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONRY WHICH WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THAI MILITARY AND ECONOMIC FIELDS.
3. TO LAY DOWN MEASURES TO PREVENT OR SOLVE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT CAUSE REPERCUSSIONS TO THE COUNTRY AFTER THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL.
4. TO DRAW A CLEAR LINE ON MILITARY AND CIVILIAN REQUIREMENTS TO DETERMINE WHAT EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED BY THE MILITARY AND WHAT IS NEEDED BY THE CIVILIAN FOR ECONOMIC BENEFITS.
5. TO ANALYZE GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF THE BASES, BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT FOR MILITARY OR ECONOMIC BENEFIT.
6. TO GIVE SUGGESTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENTS IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE UNITED STATES TO ASK IT TO HELP TRANSFORM THE BASES FOR ECONOMIC BENEFIT.

AFTER CONSIDERING THE ISSUE, THE CABINET APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT OF THIS COMMITTEE.

14 MAY 1225Z DRT/CAJ

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